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laborers, women, children, the old and infirm, and the dependant classes generally. Altogether, it is a record which does honor to the Republic.

J. W. GARNER.

Souvenirs, 1848-1878. By C. DE FREYCINET. (Paris: Librairie Ch. Delagrove. 1912. Pp. 403).

These are the recollections of a Frenchman who has been more or less prominent in the public life of his country for the greater part of sixty years. A Senator of the Republic since its establishment, and a member of nine different ministries, four of which he was the chief, he possesses rare qualifications for narrating the political and parliamentary history of the Third Republic. Beginning his narrative with an account of the revolution of 1848, the principal events of which he witnessed while a student at the Polytechnic School at Paris and in some of which he participated in an official character, he describes in turn the reaction and the coup d'état of 1851, the war with Germany, the work of the National Assembly (1871-1875), notably the establishment of the Republic and the framing of the constitutional laws of 1875, the presidencies of Thiers and MacMahon and the crises growing out of the system of MacMahon to govern through a ministry that lacked the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies. His portraiture of some of the leaders of the time are particularly interesting. "It has been given to me, in my political career," he says, "to approach intimately four superior men, founders of the Republic, Thiers, Dufaure, Jules Grèvy and Leon Gambetta. It is difficult to compare their talents, so dissimilar. But I believe that I can say that of the four Gambetta was the best endowed. Certainly I have admired, like all my contemporaries, the universal competence of Thiers, the sober eloquence and solidity of Dufaure, the sharp and ponderous mind of Grèvy. But no one has given me the sentiment of power in the same degree as Gambetta." Concerning MacMahon, whose obstinacy Freycinet severely criticises, he says, that although figuring as the champion of reaction he possessed a fund of humor very liberal, but that he exaggerated the point of honor and did not appreciate the new condition in which the Constitution placed him. In private conversation he was full of humor and easily accommodated himself to his surroundings, but if his presidential duties presented themselves he at once became grave, restless, brusque and imperious.

To the duc de Broglie he thinks history has been unjust. Though vulgar ambitions have often been attributed to him, it was without reason. "No one more than himself," he remarks, "has deplored the fatal direction of his ideas, but he was sincere and he desired to promote the welfare of the country. He feared the Republic and had a horror of the mob (*foule*). He had faith in the excellence of the governing classes and believed that the country could only be saved by a Constitutional Monarchy, which he desired to see re-established."

One concludes the reading of M. Freycinet's Memoirs with a feeling of regret that they end before the time at which he became the Chief of the Cabinet. President of the Council of Ministers in 1880, again in 1882, again in 1886, and for the fourth time in 1890, he was the leading political figure during some of the most eventful years of the Republic. It is to be hoped that he may live to bring his narrative down at least through the period covered by his own ministries. He leads us to hope that this will be done, for he says in conclusion: "later, if time is left to me, I will continue my recital."

Les Fonctionnaires: leur action Corporative. By GEORGES-COHEN, Maitre des Requêtes au Conseil d'Etat. (Paris: Armand Colin, 1911. Pp. 394).

This book is one of the best of the numerous recent contributions to the literature dealing with the problem of the functionaries in France. For some years this problem has steadily become more acute until it has reached what many Frenchmen regard as a crisis. The Functionaries,—the number of which has increased until there are now nearly a million,—have long complained of their lot: poor pay (many of them receive only three or four hundred dollars a year), favoritism and politics in the matter of appointment and advancement, and lack of freedom in matters of opinion and association. Some years ago they began to organize for the purpose of bringing pressure against the government to improve their lot, especially in regard to the method of appointment, advancement, and pay. At first they organized themselves into simple *associations professionnels* somewhat similar to associations of teachers in America. Generally, though not always, the government made no objection to such organizations. Then they went a step further and began to organize *syndicats*, or associations similar to labor unions among workingmen in private